

## Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3635  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY LUALA LUMPUR  
AMCONSUL SURABAYA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF  
SUBJECT: BOAT ARRIVALS IN AUSTRALIA

SUMMARY: BOAT NUMBER TK06 ARRIVED IN DARWIN ON JUNE 25  
CARRYING 93 REFUGEES. GROUP INCLUDES 35 MALES, 28 FEMALES  
AND 30 CHILDREN. STORY OF TRAVEL (AS REPORTED TO GOA  
IMMIGRATION DARWIN) RPVIDES INTERESTING HISTROY OF  
TREATMENT OF BOAT REFUGEES BY COUNTRIES ALONG ROUTE.

1. VESSEL IS A STEEL HULLED GUG PREVIOUSLY USED FOR  
TOWING BARGES AND AS A PASSENGER FERRY. FORMER OWNER FLED  
TO FRANCE IN 1975. PRESENT CAPTAIN NGUYEN VAN QUANG IS EX  
SVN NAVAL NONCOM EMPLOYED ON TK06 SINCE MAY 1975. CAPTAIN  
PLANNED ESCAPE WITH CREW.

2. BOAT LEAFT VIETNAM ON MAY 24 AFTER PICKING UP  
PASSENGERS AT RENDEZVOUS NEAR CAN THO. REFUGEES  
APPEAR TO BE MAINLY MERCHANTS AND PROFESSIONAL CLASS  
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INCLUDING SEVERAL LAWYERS AND EX-ARMY OFFICERS RECENTLY  
RELEASED FROM RE-EDUCATION CAMPS.

3. FIRST STOP AFTER LEAVING VIETNAM WAS PULAU BESAR.  
REPORTEDLY CHASED OUT BY POLICE. ON MAY 29 REACHED  
KUANTAN. ON MAY 31 A MALAYSIAN NAVY VESSEL ESCORTED  
TK06 TO SINGAPORE WATERS AND GAVE THEM FUEL, FOOD, AND

WATER.

4. PERMISSION TO LAND IN SINGAPORE DENIED, HOWEVER, REFUGEES GIVEN 150 KILOS OF RICE, FISH, AND FOOD. ON JUNE 3, SINGAPORE NAVY GAVE TK06 1900 LITERS OF FUEL AND TOWED VESSEL OUTSIDE OF TERRITORIAL WATERS. NAVY REFUSED TO PROVIDE MAPS TO AUSTRALIA.

5. VESSEL ARRIVED IN SURABWYA JUNE 12 AND MET CRUISE VESSEL RASA SAYANG. REFUGEES WERE GIVEN MAPS, COMPASS, FOOD AND CLOTHING. CAPTAIN MARKED BEARINGS TO AUSTRALIA ON MAPS. INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES PROVIDED 800 LITERS OF FUEL, 2000 LITERS OF WATER WHEN BOAT LEFT SURABAYA ON JUNE 12.

6. ON JUNE 17 TK06 STOPPED AT LARANTUKA (EAST COAST FLORES ISLAND) TO REPAIR BROKEN FUEL PIPE. BOAT LEFT LARANTUKA ON JUNE 20, 1978 ARRIVING IN DARWIN JUNE 25.

7. COMMENTS: (A) IF STORY AS REPORTED IS TRUE, IT CONFIRMS WORST FEARS OF AUSTRALIANS THAT COUNTIES ALONG REFUGEES' ROUTE ARE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING REFUGEES TO SAIL TO AUSTRALIA. (B) ALTHOUGH ISSUE NOT RAISED AT THIS POINT, GOA MAY SUGGEST THAT RESETTLEMENT OF 93 REFUGEES SHOULD BE COMBINED EFFORT INVOLVING U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES. LOGIC OF APPROACH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD BE THAT REFUGEES ARRIVED DIRECTLY FROM VIETNAM THUS AUSTRALIA IS "FIRST ASYLUM" POINT.  
SQUIRE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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